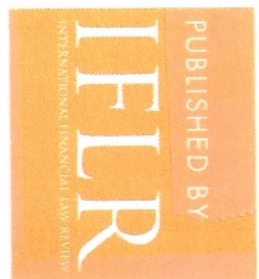




DAILY NEWS

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Controlling the net

Revelations about the scope of Internet surveillance under the US's National Security Agency's (NSA) PRISM programme sparked international concerns about government access to information transmitted over the internet and use of that information.

Internet regulation is an important issue for governments, corporates and users looking to shape the evolution of this relatively new technology. But getting it wrong may have severe economic implications. For example, *Forrester Research* estimates that PRISM's impact may cause the US cloud computing industry to lose as much as \$180 billion by 2016 – a 25% hit to overall information technology (IT) service provider revenue.

Today's session will consider the challenges of internet regulation, how regulation may change the internet commercial model and what new technology means for regulation.

National or international?
During the 2012 World

Conference of International Telecommunications (WCIT) in Dubai, market participants saw a battle between developed nations and the so-called emerging economies on the general regulation of the internet, says panel co-chair Fabrizio Cugia di Sant'Orsola.

Getting it wrong may have severe economic implications

Debates focused on the review of International Telecommunication Union (ITU) general policies as well as governments' control over their national interest and scrutiny of content transmitted by operators over the internet. However there is no consensus

on whether internet regulation should evolve towards national internet control or an international model. It is also unclear whether internet companies, or so-called 'over the top', will be able to participate in these discussions.

But these non-traditional players, which include content producers, are increasingly affected by internet controls. To that end, both content and transmission providers should be regulated.

"It is clear to all that the traditional dichotomy of transmission and content providers is outdated," Sant'Orsola adds. "But what is still unclear is which general internet regulation should apply, and to which extent regulation of specific issues, such as data protection, should be pushed one way or another."

Data protection

The balance between content providers and transmitters is more important as user-friendly applications develop. Panel

co-chair Daniela De Pasquale says that there are issues of consent but also issues of awareness of what people can access through applications.

"When users give consent, they may not realise that they're actually allowing access to a lot of personal data and materials," she adds.

Users have focused on data privacy concerns since the discovery of PRISM. But De Pasquale notes that when the committees started considering this topic and melding the information technology perspective with that of communications and network operations, those issues hadn't even started.

A fact that hasn't received much attention is the fact that cloud services, social networks, application providers and the 'over the top' companies have such enormous access to data, she adds. She predicts that the next battle will focus on issues that arise from where data should be kept and how it is stored, with a view of supervising both access and control.

SESSION NAME
'How the net was won,' or 'don't shoot the messenger.' Internet 2.0: to regulate or not to regulate?

PLACE/TIME
**Thursday 10th October
9.30am-12.30pm
Room 206, Second level**

Key takeaways

- This panel will explore the internet regulation debate;
- Countries are now deciding whether internet regulation should be handled by an international body or through their national governments;
- Data privacy is also of increasing concern following revelations about government access to internet data on e-mail accounts and social networks;
- As cloud computing becomes more popular, debates may begin to focus on where data is kept and how it is stored.